

Message Text

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SUBJECT: US VISIT OF ITALIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS

1. PRESS COVERAGE OF THE CURRENT US VISIT OF A DELEGATION OF ITALIAN PARLIAMENTARIANS, INCLUDING TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ITALIAN COMMUNIST PARTY (PCI), HAS BEEN BALANCED AND DEVOID OF SENSATIONAL SPECULATION ABOUT ITS MEANING FOR THE ITALIAN POLITICAL SCENE. GENERAL THRUST OF VIRTUALLY ALL ARTICLES HAS BEEN THAT THE VISIT IS WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF A PARLIAMENT-TO-PARLIAMENT EXCHANGE AND THAT THE ISSUANCE OF VISAS TO THE TWO PCI PARLIAMENTARIANS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE EXCHANGE DOES NOT REPRESENT A CHANGE IN THE ATTITUDE OF THE US GOVERNMENT TOWARD PCI PARTICIPATION IN AN ITALIAN GOVERNMENT.

2. IN CONNECTION WITH THE ARTICLES THAT HAVE APPEARED THUS FAR, SEVERAL ARE WORTHY OF MENTION. WRITING IN CORRIERE DELLA SERA NOVEMBER 4, UMBERTO VENTURINI SUMMARIZES COMMENTS OF PCI DEPUTY SEGRE MADE DURING THE FLIGHT FROM ROME TO WASHINGTON. INTER ALIA SEGRE OBSERVES THAT AT LEAST AMONG THE AMERICAN PRESS AND QUALIFIED PUBLIC OPINION THERE HAS BEEN A POSITIVE EVOLUTION IN ATTITUDES TOWARD THE IDEA OF A PCI PARTICIPATION IN AN ITALIAN GOVERNMENT. ON THE OTHER HAND SEGRE CRITICIZED THE COMMENTS OF AMBASSADOR VOLPE, SUPPORTED BY THE DEPARTMENT.

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MENT OF STATE, AS REPRESENTING "INTERFERENCE IN THE RIGHT OF

THE ITALIAN PEOPLE TO MAKE THEIR OWN CHOICES WITHIN THE FRAME-
WORK OF THEIR CONSTITUTIONAL LIBERTIES." AN ANSA REPORT PUB-
LISHED IN SEVERAL PAPERS NOVEMBER 5 QUOTES PCI SENATOR CALA-
MANDREI AS EXPRESSING SATISFACTION WITH THE OFFICIAL VISIT
IN WASHINGTON.

3. FINALLY, WE NOTE ANOTHER VENTURINI PIECE ON THE VISIT
WHICH APPEARED NOVEMBER 6 WITH THE HEADLINE "EMBARRASSING
MEETING IN WASHINGTON BETWEEN SEGRE AND VOLPE." HEADLINE IS
MISLEADING IN THAT BULK OF THE STORY CONCERNS SPECULATION
ABOUT ANDREOTTI'S MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY (ANDREOTTI DENIED
THAT THERE IS AMERICAN "APPREHENSION" ABOUT THE EVOLUTION OF
THE ITALIAN POLITICAL SITUATION, SAID THAT THE RECENT CHANGES
IN THE AMERICAN ADMINISTRATION WOULD HAVE NO EFFECT ON ITAL-
IAN-US RELATIONS, AND REFUSED TO BE DRAWN INTO A DISCUSSION
OF THE SPECIFICS OF HIS TALKS WITH THE SECRETARY.). AT THE
CONCLUSION OF THE ARTICLE IS A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF AMBASSADOR
VOLPE'S INTRODUCTION TO SEGRE WHICH OCCURED BY CHANGE IN THE
LOBBY OF THE WATERGATE HOTEL. SUBSEQUENTLY, SEGRE TOLD
VENTURINI THAT IT WAS HIS FIRST MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR
ASIDE FROM A BRIEF HANDSHAKE AT AN OFFICIAL RECEPTION SEVERAL
MONTHS AGO. CALINGAERT

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